

PugetSoundPartnership

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Administrative: Science Panel Appointment Process Review Item #01a

Presented by: Science Panel Chair Timothy Quinn and Tammy Owings

Proposed Action: Input to Leadership Council

Background:

- Three of the Science Panel members' terms will be up on November 10, 2010
- The Leadership Council is responsible for managing Science Panel appointment process
- The initial Science Panel appointment process was specified by statute. The current process was approved prior to the 2009 appointment process
- In 2009 the Leadership Council added one position to the Panel with the intent to add an additional position in 2010 to a total 11 member Science Panel
- The Leadership Council is scheduled to approve the solicitation process at its September 16-17 meeting.

Questions for Science Panel:

- Did the process work in 2009 or are changes needed to the process?
- What disciplines should the Leadership Council solicit for a balanced Panel?
- Are revisions needed to the selection/evaluation criteria?

Current Process:

1. Appointment/reappointment philosophy: Reappointment to the Panel is not automatic. Members interested in reappointments (within the 12-yr. limit) may reapply and be considered as part of the pool of all applicants. Three members terms are up in November (Stark, Wellman, and Quinn).
2. Role of Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS): WSAS will endorse applicants as qualified scientists from applications received.
3. Role of Science Panel: The Science Panel will provide the Leadership Council: A) recommended areas of expertise needed to balance the Panel, and B) recommended criteria for selection/evaluation of Panel members.
4. Proposed Assignments, Timeline and Leadership Council Schedule:

Assignments

Staff – Lead process, solicit applications, assist in development of the evaluation criteria, be part of the evaluation subcommittee, and develop meeting materials for both the Council and Panel as needed

Science Panel – Make recommendations to the Leadership Council on what a discipline balanced Panel would look like and, if needed, revised selection/evaluation criteria suggestions.

Academy – Endorse applicants regarding scientific qualifications

Subcommittee – Using the approved selection/evaluation criteria, review and rate the applications

Leadership Council – Approve process; make final selection of candidates

Timeline & Leadership Council Schedule

August 24-25 – Panel make suggestions for Panel make up and any changes to the solicitation process

August 26-September 3 – staff develop Science Panel recommendations and solicitation materials for Council review and approval

September 9 – staff e-mail meeting materials to Council members and post

September 16-17 - Leadership Council Meeting – Council approve process and solicitation

September 20 – Post solicitation

October 18 – Applications due

October 18-29 – Academy review applicants for scientific viability

October 29 – Academy provide findings to Council

November 1-5 – Subcommittee evaluates and rates applications

Week of November 8 – Staff mail meeting materials to Leadership Council members

November 18-19 – Leadership Council make Science Panel appointments/reappointments

December 14-15 – Science Panel meeting

Science Panel Statutory Requirements

Table 1

90.71.270	Requires
(1)	To provide independent, nonrepresentational scientific advise to the council and expertise in identifying environmental indicators and benchmarks for incorporation into the Action Agenda
(2)	In establishing the panel, the council shall request the Washington Academy of Sciences to nominate 15 scientists with recognized expertise in fields of science essential to the recovery of PS
(2)	Nominees should reflect the full range of scientific and engineering disciplines involved in PS recovery
(2)	At a minimum, the WAS shall consider making nominations from scientists associated with federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, the business and environmental communities, members of the K-12, college, and university communities, and members of the board
(2)	Solicitation should be to all sectors, and candidates may be from all public and private sectors
(2)	Persons nominated by the WAS must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, and any financial relationship with any LC member, and disclose sources of current financial support and contracts relating to PS recovery
(3)	Panel members shall serve four-year terms, except the council shall determine initial terms of two, three, and four years to provide for staggered terms
(3)	The Council shall determine reappointments and select replacements or additional members of the panel

Criteria for Science Panel

Each member **must meet** the criteria:

1. Knowledge, recognized expertise and achievement in a relevant discipline, which could include but is not limited to natural sciences – such as terrestrial and marine ecology, wildlife biology, genetics, toxicology, fisheries, hydrology, oceanography, climate sciences, river geomorphology, epidemiology; social sciences – such as land use planning, resource economics, anthropology, sociology, psychology, institutional analysis; and engineering.
2. A demonstrated ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary team setting.
3. Strong communication skills.
4. Clear understanding of the distinction between policy decisions and the scientific analyses/conclusions that can be used to guide policy decisions.
5. Objectivity, flexibility and independent thinking.
6. Hold a scientist or management position with recent hands-on research experience.

Each member **should have** experience in at least one of the following:

1. A record of scientific achievement documented by contributions to peer-reviewed literature or other evidence of success in creative scientific endeavor.
2. Experience in ecosystem modeling, risk assessment, decision support, social marketing or other application of science and engineering in support of ecosystem recovery.
3. A demonstrated ability to inform policy-makers so they are able to forge creative solutions to complex management problems.